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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/621,740	07/17/2003	Joseph W. Cole	COLE1.0007P	1816
32856	7590	10/03/2007		
WEIDE & MILLER, LTD. 7251 W. LAKE MEAD BLVD. SUITE 530 LAS VEGAS, NV 89128			EXAMINER WILLIAMS, ROSS A	
			ART UNIT 3714	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 10/03/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/621,740

Applicant(s)

COLE, JOSEPH W.

Examiner

Ross A. Williams

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 July 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Claims 6 – 15 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 7/16/07.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1 – 5 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yokota (US 6,962,528) in view of Mattice (US 6,454,649) in view of Alonso (US 6,640,387).

Claims 1 – 5: Yokota discloses a game machine cabinet that provides the operator of the device easy access to the inside of the game cabinet to facilitate maintenance of the game machine. Yokota discloses that the game machine cabinet has a door that can be opened by the operator. The main door has a “display” mounted on the door, wherein the “Display section” according to the present invention means the apertures for viewing the game displayed by devices such as the rotary reels or video display provided within the casing or a device itself that displays the game such as the rotary reels and/or display etc mounted on the main door” (Yokota 3:35 – 43,

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FIG 3). Also mounted on the main door are two left and right hydraulic cylinders 24, 24 link main door 20 and casing 10. In order to open main door 20, the administrator or serviceman etc (herein below called "administrator etc") of the game center lifts the front elbow rest 19. Due to the extending force of hydraulic cylinders 24, 24, the administrator etc is able to open main door 20 without exerting much force. A keyhole 41 specifically for the main door is provided in the middle of the top of front door 40 in order for main door 20 to be locked so as not to open (Yokota 4:3 – 12, FIG 3). One can readily see by means of FIG 3, that the door shock mechanism of Yokota possesses a shock body and a piston that is extendable from the shock body wherein the piston and a shock body are mounted to the cabinet door and the game cabinet. As can also be seen by FIG 3, the main door pivots about a shaft 29 in the game cabinet, thus the shock or piston would have to be permitted to rotate by means of the mount to facilitate the opening/pivoting of the door. However Yokoto does not state that the door rotates about a vertical axis. However, it is notoriously well known for game machine cabinets to comprise both doors that open by rotating about a horizontal axis and also a vertical axis. This can be seen by Mattice, which discloses a gaming machine wherein the door opens by rotating about a vertical axis (Mattice FIG 2). Alonso discloses the use of a door shock closing device that is commonly used in applications of doors that are mounted to a door jam and the door, wherein the door rotates about a vertical axis to form a open and closed relationship with the door jamb (Alonso 5:44 – 61).

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the Yokoto in view of Mattice and in view of Alonso to provide a gaming machine that provides a door that

opens by rotating about a vertical axis, wherein a door shock damping mechanism is mounted on the door and the interior of the gaming cabinet. This would provide an effective means of limiting the amount of forces that a game machine door experiences due to users inadvertently forcing the door shut.

Claim 16: As can be seen from Yokoto, the bracket inside connecting the second end of the door shock damper is mounted in a generally planar horizontal manner (Yokoto FIG 2)

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 – 5 and 16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

In regards to the Applicants amendment in claim 1, stating “ at least one door shock mounted in a horizontal plane”, the Examiner notes that any object mounted in the cabinet of Yokoto is mounted in a “horizontal plane” and also a vertical plane. Thus, the door shock can be considered to be mounted in a horizontal plane, due to lack of specified relationship with other parts or structure of the apparatus.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ross A. Williams whose telephone number is (571) 272-5911. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Xuan Thai can be reached on (571) 272-7147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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9/26/07

Ronald Laneau
RONALD LANEAU
PRIMARY EXAMINER

9/30/07